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--28. A scanning exposure method according to claim 23, wherein a width of an overlapping part which is partially overlapped with the pattern in the synchronous moving direction is substantially equal to that of the illumination region in the synchronous moving direction.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending. By this Amendment and Reply to the Election of Species Requirement, claims 17-28 are added and Species II, Figures 20-35 and claims 12-28, which read thereon are provisionally elected. No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all species is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants and duplicative examination by the Patent Office. Thus, withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the references submitted with the January 31, 2001 Information Disclosure Statement. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if, for some reason, a copy of that Information Disclosure Statement and its enclosures is not present in the Patent Office file.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Amendment Transmittal

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